

inclusion specialist whose mission is to ensure that her organization is as inclusive and compassionate as possible. She embodies the quality that unites all of these women, a shared desire to build a better future for all.

Lori, Estela, Kristen, Remy, Valerie, Vivian, Donna, Caitlin, Erica, and Namene, you enrich our community beyond measure. Never doubt your impact because we all feel it every single day.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO REDUCE CRIME AND ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about important legislation I am introducing today. It is called the Cell Phone Jamming Reform Act. Senator TOM COTTON is introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

All around the Nation, one of the most important issues that I hear about is the rapid rise in crime, especially violent crime.

According to the Major Cities Chiefs Association Crime Report for 2022 for urban areas, homicide is up 13 percent, rape is up 23 percent, aggravated assault is up 33 percent—all since 2020.

Every one of us knows that this is unacceptable and everyone should feel safe being in their community. In the House Republicans' Commitment to America, we promised that the new Republican majority will work toward creating a Nation that is safe. A key pillar of that promise is alleviating this current crime crisis.

The Cell Phone Jamming Reform Act is a crucial first step in our effort to reduce crime and enhance public safety. This legislation will prevent criminals from conducting criminal operations from behind bars by allowing State and Federal prison officials to use cell phone jamming systems.

The technology will protect inmates, it will protect guards, and it will protect the public at large.

State attorneys general from across the country have determined that cell phones from within prisons, these contraband cell phones, are among the most serious threat to public safety facing prison administrators today.

Now, as cell phone technology has evolved, and it continues to evolve, mobile phones are easier to conceal than ever. They provide countless ways for criminals to communicate with the outside world.

Inmates use contraband cell phones to organize murders, riots, drug operations, fraud, extortion, and other crimes. I want to give you just a few examples.

In Tennessee, an inmate used a contraband cell phone to orchestrate drug conspiracy deals by shipping a package full of methamphetamine to his girlfriend from within the prison. In

South Carolina, there have been four major drug trafficking cases where the operation was run by contraband cell phones from behind prison walls. In 2018, gang-affiliated inmates in a maximum security prison used cell phones to organize and coordinate a brutal attack that killed 7 inmates and injured 20.

All Americans have the right to feel safe in their communities, to walk their kids around the block without the fear of assault, to park their car without the fear it will be broken into, or maybe taken completely.

One of the most fundamental duties of government is to ensure that its citizens have the right and the ability to live, to work, and to raise a family without the fear of being a victim of crime.

The Cell Phone Jamming Reform Act is a key step toward reducing crime, enhancing public safety, and, ultimately, to fulfilling our goal to create a Nation that is safe.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, ahead of Trans Day of Visibility, I rise in honor of a community that is being forced to fight for its very existence. I rise in honor of trans voices that deserve to be heard, not silenced and not criminalized. I rise in honor of trans joy that deserves to be celebrated, not eradicated. I rise with unconditional love for my trans daughter, Riley. I rise in solidarity with every trans American seeking nothing less than their inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness.

To stand in the way of that right is to stand against our most basic American values, but that is exactly what MAGA extremists are doing across this country—on school boards, in State capitals, and here in the Halls of Congress.

Elected officials are using their power to undermine the freedoms and human dignity of trans Americans, and they are waging an especially vicious crusade on our kids.

These attacks make me all the more grateful for the unconditional love that Mimi and Joe Lemay of Massachusetts have for their son, Jacob. Mimi and Joe have faced vitriol and cruelty from rightwing extremists, all because they heard, accepted, and embraced Jacob when he told them he is a boy.

A few years ago, Mimi shared a letter she wrote to her son, and I would like to offer a few of her moving words: "You have at the age of 9 years accomplished what many adults couldn't in a lifetime. In your courageous visibility, you have changed the course of your own history. You have turned strangers into allies and allies into advocates.

Layered in my pride is my concern for you. I know your strength, but I also know how determined the forces are that have pitted themselves against you. The politicians and preachers who would rather see you languish in a dark closet than watch you engage the world as you do, cultivating joy and love wherever you go."

Madam Speaker, Jacob's courage demonstrates a profound strength. Let's show that strength the respect it demands. Let's reject the forces of opposition and bigotry. Let's celebrate the bravery and beauty of our trans community. Let's follow Jacob's example and cultivate joy and love wherever we go.

HONORING LAUREN ZIEGLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I am here today to share a bittersweet message. Over 6 years ago, I interviewed Ms. Lauren Ziegler for the job of legislative assistant. I saw something rare and special in Lauren, and she proved it from her very first day on the job.

As my colleagues will attest, Capitol Hill is overflowing with many talented people, but few possess the ability to do it all and to do it well and to do it with a smile, and that sums up Lauren Ziegler.

Lauren rose from a junior L.A. position to become our legislative director and our deputy chief of staff. However, for me, her most significant role has been as one of my most trusted advisers. In truth, I can think of no one who has better advised me over the years.

From day one, Lauren understood that our number one mission was to serve the needs and the interests of the good people of the Texas 36th Congressional District. I have received countless compliments from folks in Texas and here in Washington regarding the quality of her work. Frankly, I am shocked that no other office stole Lauren away from us. I am sure many have tried.

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Lauren's loyalty was true to the Babin team. She has served us and Texas' 36th District with all of her heart. For that, we are very grateful.

Lauren's heart belongs to the Sunshine State. She will be returning home to Florida soon to continue serving our Nation in a different capacity at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

I have no doubt that, at NASA, Lauren Ziegler's rare and special qualities will contribute to their abilities to break barriers, explore the unknown, and send mankind back to the Moon and to places that we have never been before. I look forward to watching her future unfold down in Florida.

I hope that Lauren will look back on her time here in Washington with as much fondness for us as we have for her.